TL 1329-35

V JORNADAS DE TIMOR DA UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

22-29 de Julho de 1993

Paper;

East Timor Youth: its role and determination

Its relationship with Indonesia's milatry

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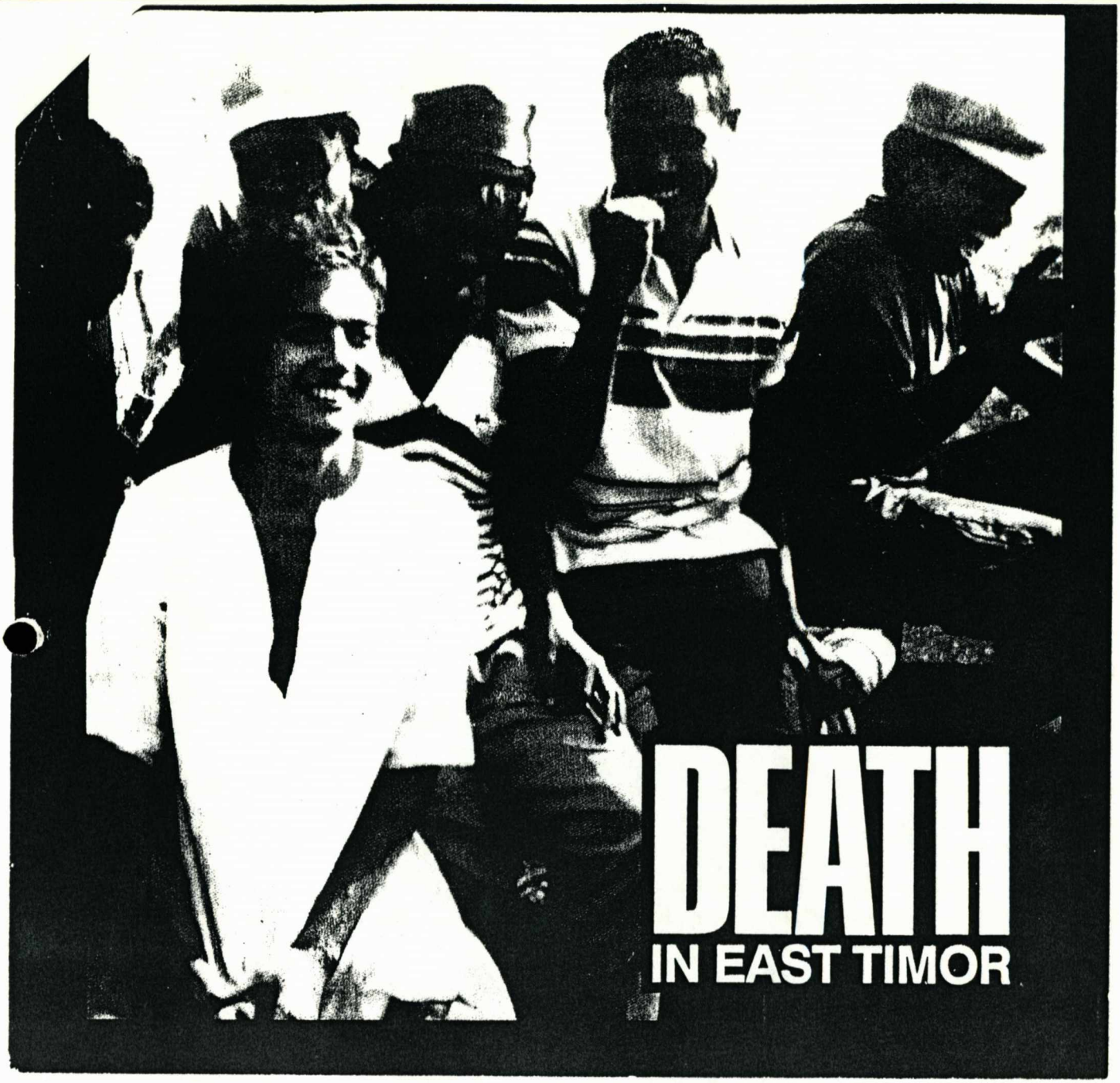

..." I AM THE WITNESS TO THE SUFFERING OF MY STRUGGLING PEOPLE

AND I SHALL BEAR WITNESS TO THEIR LIBERATION"...

EAST TIMOR'S YOUTH: ITS ROLE AND DETERMINATION.

(The young people and their relationship with Indonesia's military)

One can not doubt the importance of the Timorese Youth in this Historic period of their country's struggle.

As ever since, at the time of creation of nationalist ideals and movement till the present day of occupation, the youth of East Timor is the inspiration of its peoples' struggle.

During these seventeen years, Indonesia has tried to buy the hearts and minds of East Timorese young people by educating them, giving them an opportunity of education that they never had during four long centuries of portuguese colonial period. In East Timor today, there are lawyers, doctors, engineers, a generation that come out from Indonesian schools and universities.

But why the hatred towards Indonesia is widespread in East Timor?

When confronted by this question, Indonesia has always used social and economics down turns in East Timor to justified its arguments.

High unemployment rate is a reality. Lack of motivation among the young people is another. Is this social and economic reality justified Indonesia's argument?

In many business publications and reports world wide, and in particular in Asia, referred Indonesia's economic growth, as one of the highest in Asia, if is not the world.

On the other hand, Indonesia claim that It has been pouring money into East Timor, and developed the Territory as never registered at any of its 26 provinces.

More than 500 primary, junior and high schools (Steve Erlanger, N.Y.T. Oct.1990), a polytechnic and a private university, roads, bridges, harbours were constructed in East Timor. The introduction of television, as well as the shifting of prostitutes from major Indonesian cities (cited in various news report) into East Timor are developments widely promoted by Indonesia.

"Indonesia's sincere intent to give substance to freedom won by the people of East Timor is reflected in its continuous efforts towards the accelerated development of East Timor in all spheres of life" (Ali Alatas speech delivered at National Press Club, Washington, D.C., February 20, 1992).

Despite all these "developments", opposition, resentment and hatred of the occupation is widespread in East Timor.

These social and economic trends are quite interesting although, it is long way from the realities.

"A PROBLEM OF THE SOUL"

"We should never gone into East Timor... These people are differente from us. We have poured money into the place for years, and all we have for it are headaches", says a retired Indonesian parliamentarian in "A PROBLEM OF THE SOUL", (Asiaweek, June 23,1993)

Prior to Indonesia's brutal annexation and occupation of East Timor, the youth of East Timor was experience a living of excitation towards the creation of their nation.

Their contributions were noticeable in all parts of life in East Timor, in the military units of FALINTIL, leading members of the structures of National Resistance, and mentors of other social and cultural organizations.

They become the soul of their country and the inspiration of its struggle for justice and freedom.

They have gained the courage of their people and learned from the determination of their colleagues and friends.

They are determine to achieve their objectives, goals, freedom and to freed their people from the oppression.

THE INDONESIA'S MILITARY

Indonesia's military forces are one of powerful and most violent soldiers of South East Asia. They remain the last military dictatorial regime in the world today.

Their strategies in East Timor have included using East Timorese as human shields for their territorial advances, forcibly moving people from villages into concentration camps, deportation of people to remote parts of Indonesia,

monitoring and control all aspects of life of the people.

Its military occupation of East Timor is a genocide comparable only to Cambodia under Khmer Rouge.

Continuous intimidation, abuse of woman, disappearance and unfair prosecution of young people, are facts of life in East Timor today.

..."The Indonesian government officials poured buckets of sand over the blod in the road and collected the various articles of scattered shoes and clothing" (Students protest-USA ambassador Mr. John Monjo's visit to East Timor, report by Jenny Groves, Jan.1990).

"I have already told you, if you attempt to organize your own State, and if the movement is strong, sufficiently strong, it will be crushed by ABRI. We will crush them all! I repeat, we will crush them all!" (General Benny Murdany in his speech delivered to Timorese local government in Dili, March 2, 1992)

" In a military operations zone, the duty of every soldier is to destroy the enemy" (General R. Warouw at his Press Conference after the massacre of Santa Cruz, quoted in Expresso 14/12)

These were some of the expressions that demonstrated the frustration of Indonesian Generals in their effort to win the war against the East Timorese. An invasion strategically planned to be achieved in one day that become a major problem for their nation.

East Timor today, as described by Steve Erlanger (been referred in previous

page), "is one of the world sadder places".

The East Timorese Youth's rejection of Indonesia's military presence in their country is a fact. It is a reality of Indonesia's military problem that is increasing gradually as the years of occupation pass by.

CONCLUSION:

We may conclude that the relationship between the East Timorese Youth and Indonesia's military forces, is full of hatred, a no end matter, a deadlock.

The young people of East Timor, in contrary to Indonesia's military forces, have gain trust from its people, unique experience that made them conscious about the struggle and made them aware of their limitations.

They understand the suffering of their people and believing in all efforts of finding a just solution acceptable by all parts involved.

They are willing to compromise, as it has been demonstrated in the past. However, above all, and a very important observation that Indonesia must take into consideration, is the compromise that already exist between them and they country. They must sacrifice to bring justice, peace and freedom to they people.